REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2-6, which have been rejected on the basis of the prior art. Specifically, claims 3-5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bosna U.S. Patent No. 4,539,465* in view of *Rigdon et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,066,833*. The remaining claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bosna* and *Rigdon et al.* and further in view of *Tonita U.S. Patent No. 4,160,151*. Essentially the Examiner's position was that *Bosna* discloses the welding wire storage device recited in the claims, except for the housing having a free space which was said to be disclosed by *Rigdon et al.* *Tonita* was cited with respect to claim 2 as teaching coupling mechanisms designed as a quick lock.

This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests a welding wire storage device for welding system having the structure set forth in Applicants' claim 6. The primary reference to *Bosna*

discloses a wire feed system for a robotic welding system where the wire storage reel is mounted on a mounting plate which is slideably moveable along a base plate mounted on and extending along the robot arm. The construction according to *Bosna* enables the compensation of the weight of the wire storage and feed system to ensure accurate gun registration with the work piece. See column 3, lines 26-30 of *Bosna*.

The wire storage system of *Bosna* is represented by a wire storage spool or reel (reference number 28). There is no wire buffer between the wire storage spool or reel 28 and the welding gun 16 enabling the temporarily storage of a small amount of welding wire in the case of different wire feeding speeds or at the change in the feeding direction of the welding wire as is the case with Applicants' welding wire storage device as set forth in claim 6. It is neither possible nor intended to temporarily store the welding wire within a wire buffer with the construction according to *Bosna*. The flexible conduit 36 between the wire feed means and the welding gun flexes as the welding gun is maneuvered by the robot. Within the flexible conduit 36 it is neither possible nor intended to store a small amount of welding

wire in the case of different wire feeding speeds or at a change in the feeding direction of the welding wire.

Additionally, it is not possible with *Bosna's* arrangement to provide a very simple and compact structure of a welding wire storage device for a welding system as is the case with Applicants' welding wire storage device as set forth in claim 6. Further, *Bosna* fails to disclose or suggest a backward movement or different feeding speed of the welding wire, which makes it necessary to temporarily store an excess of welding wire within the wire feed system.

The defects and deficiencies of the primary reference to *Bosna* are nowhere remedied by the secondary reference to *Rigdon et al.* which simply discloses an apparatus and a method for selectively changing welding wire. Even if the loop of the welding wire illustrated in FIG. 27 of *Rigdon et al.* were to be considered a wire buffer, the welding wire has to be conveyed over the entire hosepack to the wire buffer so that large friction losses would occur and the wire feed response behavior would be impaired. This disadvantage is specifically described

in Applicants' disclosure in the paragraph bridging pages 2-3, which is eliminated with Applicants' welding wire storage device as set forth in claim 6.

The remaining reference to *Tonita*, cited with respect to claim 2, has been considered but is believed to be no more relevant. There is no disclosure or suggestion in *Tonita* of designing the coupling mechanism arranged on the housing of the welding wire storage device for connection with the wire guide hose as a quick lock. In column 3, lines 5-10 and column 4, lines 9-13 of *Tonita* relied on by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that there is no hint for using a quick lock as coupling mechanism for connection of the welding wire storage device with the wire guide hose.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' claim 6, together with claims 2-5 which depend thereon, are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the final action and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Josef ARTELSMAIR ET AL

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No.29,298
Attorneys for Applicants

FJD:cmm

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 29, 2010.

Amy Klein

R:\Patents\A\ARTELSMAIR ET AL 8 PCT\Response to Final OA.wpd